THE
CATHOLIC RADICAL

"...to foster a society based on creed instead of greed." Peter Maurin

April/May 2025 ***Price: For whatever it's worth.***

Stand Up Against Fascism

by Charlie Chaplin

Editor's Note: In "The Great Dictator," a film written, directed, and produced by Charlie Chaplin, the silent movie star challenged and mocked Adolf Hitler. The film was banned in several countries where fascism or the appeasement thereof dominated. Chaplin valued liberty, peace, internationalism, and the power of imagination to make life wonderful. Because of these values, Chaplin was falsely accused of being a communist and forced to leave the United States.

In these times when an un-elected billionaire and convicted felon trample civil liberties, social welfare, the free press, the environment, science, humanitarian aid, immigration, and the rule of domestic and international law, we are happy to print Chaplin's concluding speceh from "The Great Dictator." This was the first time the actor ever spoke on screen. His words are as pertinent now as they were in 1940.

We did not change the sexist language; although we have little doubt that Chaplin, who portrayed a militant suffragette in one of his films, would support the use of inclusive language were he alive today.

I'm sorry, but I don't want to be an emperor. That's not my business. I don't want to rule or conquer anyone. I should like to help everyone, if possible. Jew, Gentile, black man, white. We all want to help one another. Human beings are like that. We want to live by each other's happiness, not by each other's misery. We don't want to hate and despise one another. In this world there is room for everyone. And the good earth is rich and can provide for everyone. The way of life can be free and beautiful, but we have lost the way.

Greed has poisoned men's souls, has barricaded the world with hate. Has goose-stepped us into misery and bloodshed. We have developed speed, but we have shut ourselves in. Machinery

(Continued on Page 2)

Challenge The Far Right

by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

Germany's ultranationalist *Alternative für Deutschland* (AfD) party opposes immigration and same sex marriage, denies climate change, and calls for the deportation of foreigners. Its leaders often trivialize the harm of Naziism. For example, Björn Höcke, leader of the AfD party in the state of Thuringia, has twice been fined by a German court for using the phrase, "Everything for Germany" ("Alles für Deutschland") which is the banned slogan Nazi storm troopers engraved on their daggers.

The Proud Boys are described by Wikipedia as an "American far-right, neo-fascist militant organization that promotes and engages in political violence." Although the Proud Boys deny being white supremacists, their opposition to immigration and progressive organizations parallels the positions of neo-Nazis. A prosecutor for the January 6 attack on the US Capital, Conor Mulroe, described them as "Donald Trump's army, fighting to keep their preferred leader in power no matter what the law or the courts had to say about it." The Anti-Defamation League describes the Proud Boys as extremist conservative, overtly Islamophobic, misogynistic, transphobic, anti-immigration, and "all too willing to embrace racists, anti-Semites and bigots of all kinds." The leaders of the Proud Boys frequently espouse a white genocide conspiracy theory.

Until recently, organizations, like the AfD and Proud Boys, were written off as dangerously opposed to democracy and human rights, but no longer. President

(Continued on Page 4)

Still I Rise

By Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise. Ω

Stand Up Against Fascism

(Continued from Page 1)

that gives abundance has left us in want. Our knowledge has made us cynical. Our cleverness, hard and unkind. We think too much and feel too little. More than machinery we need humanity. More than cleverness we need kindness and gentleness. Without these qualities, life will be violent and all will be lost….

The aeroplane and the radio have brought us closer together. The very nature of these inventions cries out for the goodness in men, cries out for universal brotherhood, for the unity of us all. Even now my voice is reaching millions throughout the world—millions of despairing men, women, and little children—victims of a system that makes men torture and imprison innocent people.

To those who can hear me, I say, do not despair. The misery that is now upon us is but the passing of greed.... The bitterness of men who fear the way of human progress. The hate of men will pass, and dictators die, and the power they took from the people will return to the people. And so long as men live, liberty will never perish!

Soldiers! Don't give yourselves to brutes! Men who despise you—enslave you—who regiment your lives! Tell you what to do, what to think, and what to feel! Who drill you, diet you, treat you like cattle! Use you as cannon fodder! Don't give yourselves to these unnatural men! Machine men, with machine minds, and machine hearts! You are not machines! You are not cattle! You are men! You have the love of humanity in your hearts! You don't hate! Only the unloved hate—the unloved and the unnatural! Soldiers! Don't fight for slavery! Fight for liberty! Ω

Only the unloved hate—the unloved and the unnatural!

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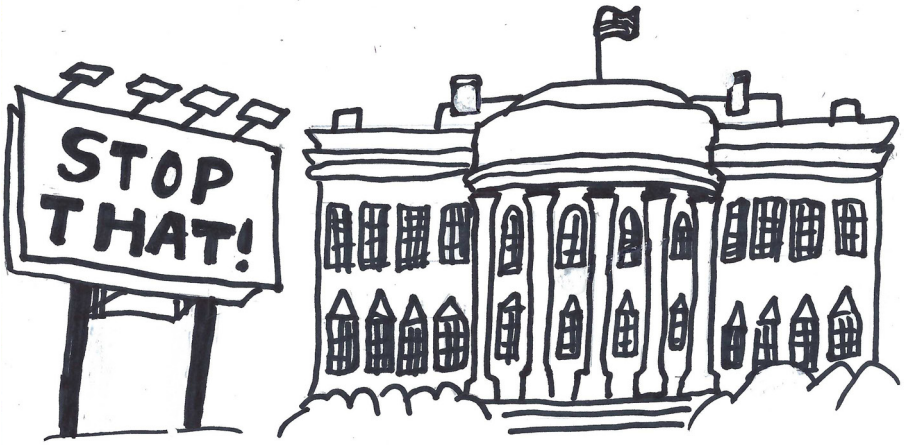
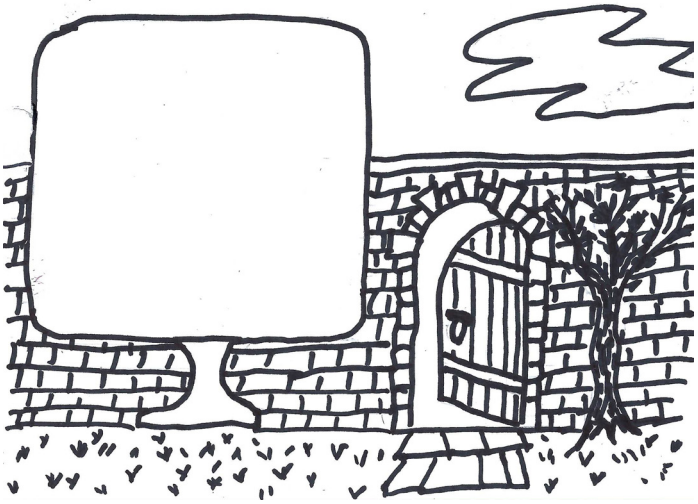
April Fools Scripture



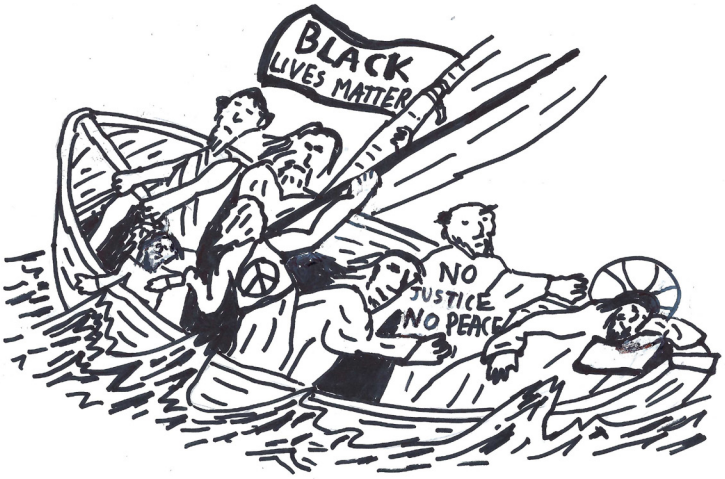
"See with what large letters I have written to you..." Galatians 6:11

"The alien who resides with you shall be a citizen..." Deuteronomy



"The courtyard gate is to have a thirty-foot screen..." Exodus 27:16

"OMG!" John 20:26



"... the disciples woke Jesus." Matthew 8:24

"I do not run aimlessly." Corinthians 9:26

Challenge the Far Right

(Continued from Page 1)

Trump pardoned the Proud Boys leader, Enrique Tarrio, and three of his lieutenants who had been convicted of seditious conspiracy and jailed for the violent plot to stop the peaceful transfer of presidential power from Trump to Biden after the 2020 election. Trump described the Proud Boys as "people who actually love our country."

And then, on Valentine's Day, Vice President Vance told diplomats in Munich, Germany that they should be open to the AfD. His words echoed those of Elon Musk who interviewed the AfD leaders and then told its members that Germany has "too much focus on past guilt," trivializing Germany's support for Adolf Hitler and the Holocaust. Musk's views are not surprising from a man who grew up in apartheid South Africa and gave the Hitler salute at Trump's inauguration.

While Trump, Musk, Vance, and leaders of the AfD and Proud Boys are quick to deny affinity for Naziism, no one should forget that Hitler did not come out of the gate as a genocidal dictator. He used legitimate elections and only needed 37% of the vote to seize power and abolish the Weimar Republic. Like Hitler, Donald Trump and Elon Musk seem to believe that "Democracy is weak and babbling, compared to an authoritarian state."

To forestall such an appalling future, it is essential that the wolves be stripped of sheep's' clothing. When politicians say they favor "colorblind" policies, they do not mean "anti-racist," quite the opposite in fact. When they give a Nazi salute, we must reject later claims of innocence. When politicians denounce immigrants, while wrapping themselves in the American flag, we must remember that our nation is "one out of many" and denounce those politicians as traitors to genuine American ideals. When sniveling cowards introduce legislation in Congress to put Trump's image on Mount Rushmore or to allow him to run for three terms, we must be crystal clear that a march toward dictatorship is underway.

We must fearlessly obstruct the highway to fascism. The word "fascism' may strike some as overblown rhetoric, but naïve people have said that time and time again as democracy crumbled around them. Authoritarian ego-maniacs abound in history, but fall from power when the people have the courage to oppose them.

Remember how, on a June 9, 1954 nationally-televised broadcast, after US Senator Joseph McCarthy accused a US army attorney of being a communist, the attoney's defense lawyer, Joseph Welch, replied: "Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness....You have done enough. Have you no sense of decency?"

McCarthy, who, as a leading member of the House Un-American Activities Committee for four years, terrorized Americans in politics, business, academia, and the arts, fell from power overnight.

Joseph Welch challenges Joseph Senator McCarthy

Right now, too may Americans ignore the fact that the emperor has no clothes. Like the child in the fable who spoke the truth, we must be clear that neither President Trump, his un-elected partner, Elon Musk, nor any of their stooges are working to improve the commonweal. We must proclaim that the billions of dollars taken from human services, healthcare, environmental programs, government regulation, education, foreign aid, and more are going to be used to pay for tax cuts to the very rich.

We too can ask, "Have you no sense of decency?" Ω

Be Herb Block

In the aftermath of World War II, Americans reacted with dismay as the Soviet Union imposed communist control over much of Eastern Europe. People worried that communists might try to subvert schools, labor unions, and other institutions. In this climate of fear and suspicion, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which Herb Block had opposed since its inception in the 1930s, became active. And in 1950, a young senator from Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy, seeking political gain, began a well-publicized campaign using smear tactics, bullying, and innuendo to identify and purge communists and their "fellow travelers" in government. Herb Block recognized the danger to civil liberties posed by such activities and warned of them in his work. He coined the phrase "McCarthyism" in his cartoon for March 29, 1950, naming the era just weeks after Senator McCarthy's spectacular pronouncement that he had in his hand a list of communists in the State Department. Block's accusations became headline news, vaulting him into the national political spotlight. For four years McCarthy attacked communism, while Herb Block cartoons relentlessly attacked the senator's heavy-handed tactics.

In June 1954, McCarthy was censured and in December condemned by the Senate. Ω

'Just Old and Homeless'

by Christopher Damien

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from the author's February 7, 2025 article in The New York Times.

David Kent Barefield, who was homeless and had a history of drug abuse, was handcuffed, pulled from a police car and brought to Sacramento's main jail around 1 a.m. on May 12. A police officer had dragged him about 100 feet over the concrete floor of the parking garage to get to the jail entrance....The police department said Mr. Barefield had been arrested on theft and trespassing charges, but would not provide more details.

Once Mr. Barefield was inside, a certified nursing assistant had difficulty checking his vital signs, and should have alerted a registered nurse to examine him but did not make that request. As Mr. Barefield lay on the floor for several minutes, the nursing assistant and the arresting officer did not attend to him.

The officer "reportedly told health care staff that the patient had been able to walk at the time of arrest but was now 'playing possum,'" wrote medical experts — a nurse practitioner, Madeleine LaMarre, and a registered nurse, Angela Goehring, who are both experienced in working in correctional institutions.

Mr. Barefield was soon placed in a cart that is normally used to restrain combative detainees. At around 2 a.m., the medical experts and lawyers said, a nurse cleared him to be held at the jail but failed to complete a medical screening and later falsified his intake papers.

Ms. LaMarre and Ms. Goehring...noted in their report that the police should have taken Mr. Barefield directly to a hospital rather than to the jail. The report also said that nurses and sheriff's deputies should have recognized that he was in dire need of medical care.

Deputies took him out of the cart at about 3:30 a.m., carrying and dragging him to be photographed and fingerprinted. "Stop playing games!" one of them yelled, according to the lawyers.

Two of the lawyers — who work with the Prison Law Office, a nonprofit legal group representing detainees in the federal court case — described Mr. Barefield's condition in an interview.

"He was near death and completely incapable of engaging throughout the interaction," said Margot Mendelson, one of the lawyers. "He was not treated like a person who needed care. This should have been the moment to help save his life."

"He is not standing at any point," said Patrick Booth, another of the lawyers. "They're pulling him by the biceps about 30 or 40 feet. His pants had come down. He's completely exposed."

Mr. Booth said footage showed the deputies lifting Mr. Barefield's head up by the hair, his body on the floor, while taking booking photos from different angles

While he mumbled occasionally throughout the encounter, the lawyers said he made his only discernible comment while being photographed: "I am Jesus Christ."

Minutes later, a Sheriff's Office sergeant observed that the man appeared to be unconscious and asked the nurse to confirm he had been cleared medically for booking. The nurse claimed that the man's vital signs had been normal, adding, "He's just old and homeless." The nurse then left the area.

Deputies began checking Mr. Barefield's pulse, calling for backup and eventually starting chest compressions at 3:46 a.m....

Mr. Barefield was pronounced dead about 30 minutes later.... Ω

One Reason Healthcare Is So Expensive

In 2022, per capita healthcare spending was $5,251 in Japan, $5,493 in the UK, and $6,319 in Canada while it was $12,555 in the United States. Simultaneously, the US has a significantly lower life expectancy than all three countries. Americans pay significantly more and get less for healthcare than 47 other countries.

One reason why Americans pay more for less on healthcare appeared in a peer-reviewed study in the February 2024 edition of *JAMA* (The Journal of the American Medical Association) which reported that, between 2001 and 2022, ninety-two for-profit healthcare companies paid $2.6 trillion in dividends to investors. Given that healthcare is heavily subsidized by US taxpayers, through Medicare and Medicaid, these lucrative dividends are a shocking example of double-dipping into consumers' pockets, first through taxes and then through higher costs, not to improve service, but to increase profits. Ω

"Health care is not a luxury, it is a right that belongs to everyone."
Pope Francis

Ongoing Israeli Genocide

In violation of ceasefire agreements and international law, Israel continues to occupy parts of Lebanon and Syria, routinely killing civilians trying to return to their demolished homes. At the same time, Israel violated its ceasefire agreement with Hamas through daily killings, a blockade on humanitarian aid, severence of electricity, and failure to withdraw Israeli forces from Gaza.

Meanwhile, Doctors Without Borders, says, "Israeli forces and settlers have increased the use of extreme physical violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank...."

On February 25, Human Rights Watch said, "The Israeli military has for weeks conducted air strikes and raids in the northern West Bank that have killed more than 50 Palestinians, many who were unarmed...."

The United Nations Human Rights Office said: "Israeli forces have destroyed scores of homes and critical infrastructure.... The Jenin, Nur Shams, and Tulkarem refugee camps have become near-unhabitable."

After 40,000 Palestinians had been displaced, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said, "The operations will continue for a year and that displaced Palestinians will not be allowed to return."

With similar hardness of heart, US Secretary of State Rubio invoked "emergency authorities" to bypass Congress and send Israel $4 billion more in arms.

And then, in the lat hours of Saint Patrick's Day, with full US support, Israel began widespread bombing in Gaza once again. In 24 hours, more than 400 Palestinian children, women, and men were killed. All of this while the White House is moving to deport anyone critical of Israel's genocidal policies. Ω

A Peacemaker's Cry

by Mazin Qumsiyeh

Editor's Note: The author is the founder and director of the Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability at Bethlehem University. He is also a nominee for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. These excerpts are taken from reflections on Valentines' Day and March 18, 2025.

We in Palestine remain struggling to survive against all odds...:

[But] there are millions of good people around the world who are active and who assert agency. They work, they act, they mobilize, they resist, they inspire and keep hope alive.... The road for peace and sustainability will not be easy for those who choose to obey their conscience. Yet that road is the one that you never regret taking. When humans reflect on a deathbed what was achieved in life it will not be about a job or house or car that matters; we reflect on how we worked to leave the world a better place than we inherited. So, every day, ask yourslef, "Whom did I help today?

The Israeli regime supported by the US just attacked the people of Gaza strip killing 304 civilians (reported so far last night to this morning) and injuring hundreds. Men, women, children are being slaughtered again in large numbers using US weapons and support. This while not allowing humanitarian aid (2 million people denied food, medicine, water).

Is there any group that will intervene to stop the genocide?

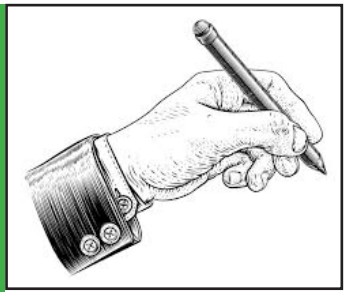
...The US regime just expelled the South African Ambassador (for his outspoken rejection of imperialism) and is trying to expel a lawful permanent resident (Mahmoud Khalil) for speaking the truth about an ongoing genocide....

The US and Israel break ceasefires they signed on all fronts. What is horrifying as the US becomes a fully owned subsidiary of the fascist right-wing Zionists is that everything is legitimized: deumanization, genocide, racism, shakedown of countries, blockade, might makes right. It is now so blatant in a way never seen before. The Nazis hid what they did. The alliance of neo-Nazis (white supremacists like Trump and Musk) and the Zionists that use them do not try to hide anything. They are openly calling for and engaged in genocide and ecocide.

How much damage they do until empire collapses depends largely on us working harder to stop them. That is why actions like the vote of Harvard law students to divest from Israeli apartheid and the actions of Jewish Voice for Peace at Trump Plaza and thousands of others like that are so critical to fray the empire and drive us towards sustainability (of people and nature).

But what are you doing as empire... lashes out at the most vulnerable? Ω

Letters



Hi,
We loved Scott's snowy beard, the picture of Claire, and the doctor's statement on Gaza (not in that order).

John Greenam & Alice Budge
Columbus, Georgia

Dear Scott and Claire:
Peter Maurin's reminder (CR Feb./March) that "radical" means going to the roots of a problem is timely. Mainstream commentary today uses "radicalization" as a pejorative, psychologizing, and thereby pathologizing, political thinking and activity that seeks changes in the deeper institutional structures where the malevolence we experience is rooted. Further, Maurin's and CR's use of "radical" eschews violence —to which mainstream media equates it — for moral reasons, of course but, as well, because violence is ineffective, leaving the roots of problems unaddressed, and likely to resurface.

Jerry Lembcke
Worcester, Massachusetts

Editor's Note: In the dictionary, the word "radical" is defined as "relating to a root, or departing from the ordinary in an extreme way." Nowadays, a radical is mostly considered an extremist, often violent. In surfing, "radical" is a slang term that means high-level, impressive, or awesome surfing. If someone characterizes an action as "radical," it can mean "wicked cool," as in positively trendy.

For us, like Peter Maurin, the term means going to our spiritual roots—Scripture, lives of the saints, and Church teaching—to formulate responses to modern problems. We prefer the term "radical" to "orthodox" because the latter might connotate obedience to current teaching which contradicts seminal values.

We eschew the labels "liberal" and "conservative" because both tend to accept values that either just came on the scene or did so in the not too distant past. Our friend, the renowned peace activist, Phil Berrigan used to say, "Scratch a liberal and you'll find a fascist."

We try to be less harsh on our peers, agreeing when we can with anyone who upholds fundamental Christian values. Sometimes we agree with conservatives. More often, we agree with liberals, but we always try to avoid blanket ideological endorsements.

In some eras, pacifism enjoys respect, while in others disdain. The same can be said for opposition to usury and belief in the seven sacraments, especially marriage and ordination. We try not to be blown by the gales of the present day into positions which, in retrospect, will be considered un-Christian, e.g. burning those accused of witchcraft; dropping nuclear bombs; embracing racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of hatred.

We invite our readers to challenge us at any time if our positions seem out of step with Christian roots. Like anyone, we are far from perfect and often need the help of others to recognize our faults.

Dear Scott and Claire,
I understand the movie "The Apprentice" portrays Trump as being a student of Roy Cohn's three rules of success:

#1 attack, attack, attack.
#2 admit nothing, deny everything
#3 always claim victory, never admit defeat

These rules are Machiavellian to their core: attack to promote fear and gain power.

Trump has gained significant support with his skillful use of these three roles. Republicans, corporate executives, and media outlets fear retribution if they oppose him. Democrats have been ineffective counteracting his attacks. We are rapidly turning into an autocratic state. I am unclear what action I can do as an individual. My current intention is to support activist organizations that align with my values. If there is enough grass-roots opposition, Trump would be less able to bring about retributions. Those who hide out and think they can wait out four years would be making a grave mistake. I am particularly fearful of his MAGA high-tech and armed vigilante supporters.

Thanks for the great work you bring to the community!

Robert Slezak
Lowell, Massachusetts

Dear Scott
I loved your article/essay "Fathoming Evil." It was one of the best I've read in a long time. Keep up the good work.

David Vilandre
West Boylston, Massachusetts

Hi, Scott,
Very powerful Musings! Stay warm.

Jerry Kelley
Sutton, Massachusetts

Catholic Worker Calendar

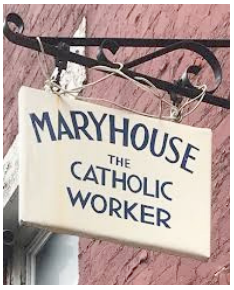
Rita Corbin

April 8- Stations of the Cross: Please join us for a contemporary look at how Jesus is still suffering in our day through sinful decisions by individuals and by governments. Meet at 11:45 AM. 52 Mason Street. Soup and bread will be served after the one-hour procession.

April 9 & 23, May 6 & 20 - Evening Prayer: Please join us for short silent meditation followed by Evening Prayer with Taizé chant at 52 Mason Street. 7:00 PM. Refreshments to follow.

Mason Street Musings

In March, I traveled to New York City to participate in Nuclear Ban Week, a five-day event paralleling the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) held at the United Nations. I stayed at Maryhouse Catholic Worker. For four nights, I slept in the room where Dorothy Day lived during her later years. The room where she also died. Its two long walls are lined with books Dorothy read. There's a desk, appropriately cluttered with stacks of folders and aging magazines, an armchair, a comfortable rocker, and two chests of drawers. Only the bed is not original, I was told. On the night stand sits a dial radio as old as myself, if not older. You must rotate the knob through some static to locate the friendly voice of the broadcaster for New York's public radio station. Hearing the morning news pour out from that old machine, one that kept functioning through hard times, as well as good, felt oddly reassuring.



Two windows face Third Street. Because the ancient radiator runs too hot, one window stays cracked open during the cold months to let in cool air. Each night, I fell asleep to the chatter and laughter on the street below. In the morning, I woke to the wheezing brakes of delivery trucks and the shouts of their drivers trying to navigate the cluttered thoroughfare.

I had three confirmed commitments in New York: attending the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Forum at Riverside Church, which was the opening event for Nuclear Ban Week; participating in Archbishop John Wester's Shrove Tuesday Mass for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, and joining my fellow Catholic Workers for an Ash Wednesday protest at the US Mission to urge our callous government to support the TPNW. During the unclaimed hours, I imagined making a mini-retreat in Dorothy's room. I would read her books, write in my journal, pray to her for inspiration, and from the window watch New Yorkers carry on with daily life while the country fell apart.

But the lure of the City pulls on the curious. Instead of long morning prayers, I walked or caught the bus uptown to the Church Center of the United Nations. In a conference room on the eighth floor, I listened to speakers from frontline nuclear affected communities, most of them women, detail how the production, storage, and testing of nuclear weapons wreak havoc on humans and their habitats. "As a child, I thought where I lived was beautiful," said a Dine (Navajo) woman from the American southwest. But after a uranium leak from a storage site contaminated local land and water and left her family with cancers, her childhood paradise felt untrustworthy, she said. It had become a place of invisible hazards.

The audience, many of whom came from nuclear-affected communities, resonated with the women's stories. Some listeners wiped away tears. Others offered encouragement whenever a speaker faltered while describing generational cancers or ecological devastation. The courage and compassion I observed in that conference room was a shot of hope for me. Tenderness still thrives.

For two months now, I have stayed enraged over the grotesque cruelty of our current administration. Rage of this nature affects one's vision. When the priest speaks of the "resurrection hidden within the crucifixion," I look at him blankly. New York brought relief. My days there took on a holy rhythm in spite of my frenzied self. Morning prayer in Dorothy's room, a bit of news from the old radio, coffee. On my trek downstairs for that first cup, I would pass the tabernacle candle twinkling in the dark chapel, and women at the front door waiting for 8 a.m. breakfast. The Catholic Workers say Evening Prayer in the dining room at the folded table near the kitchen door. They drone through the Psalms, but their prayers of intention are earnest and long. Ω **Claire**

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Social Security

March 4, 2025, USA Today

Elon Musk sharply criticized Social Security in an interview with Joe Rogan, labeling the elder benefits program a "Ponzi scheme."... "There are fewer babies being born," the billionaire said, "and you have more people who are retired that live for a long time and get Social Security payments."

....Senator Bernie Sander, I-Vt., speaking on "Meet the Press," argued the cash crunch would end if Congress repealed the Social Security tax cap: US taxpayers only pay Social Security taxes on the first $176,000 of their annual wages.

D.E.I.

March 5, 2025, National Public Radio's *Tonya Mosley interviewed psychologist Ella Washington and Harvard sociology professor Frank Dobbin.*

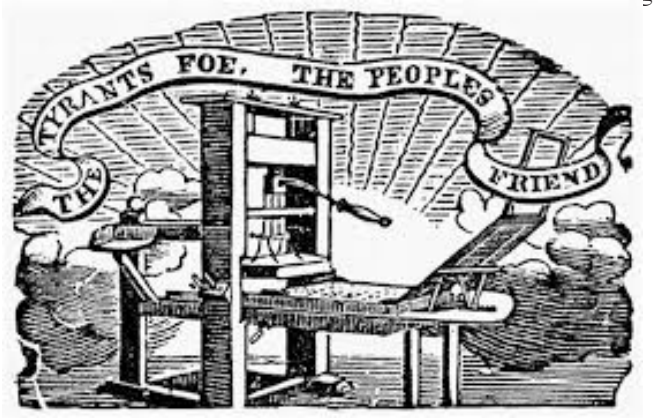
MOSLEY: Today, we're discussing the rapid dismantling of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, commonly known as DEI in both public and private sectors nationwide. ...How would you define DEI?

WASHINGTON: ...DEI is about creating workplace environments and systems in our society where everyone has the opportunity to succeed and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

DOBBIN:...DEI comes out of legislation trying to assure equality of opportunity, that is having the same chances in the labor market by race, ethnicity, creed. ...Before 1964 Civil Rights Act, ...most employers, most private sector corporations would not hire Black men except for a certain number of jobs... like janitors.

MOSLEY: There is this perception, much like the argument against affirmative action, that DEI allows for preferential treatment of minority groups, and it has come at a cost, meaning that it has turned into reverse discrimination. ...Is there research or data that show patterns of reverse discrimination?

DOBBIN: In the 1970s, there were a



number of reverse discrimination legal cases filed against private sector employers and against police and fire departments. And the courts never found any of these cases to have merit.... Another piece of evidence comes from social science researchers who try to see if there's discrimination either in favor of white people or in favor of non-white people. Typically, they're looking at white men versus Black men and Hispanic men. And they send resumes of essentially identical people to employers, see if they get called back, and sometimes they send actual job applicants to the same employers. And they have consistently found that white men are advantaged in all kinds of jobs. These studies have never found that Hispanic men or Black men are advantaged in getting any kind of job.

MOSLEY: ...White nationalist groups have been fighting against the Civil Rights Act and diversity, equity, and inclusion for the last 60 years. What is different now is that this effort is mainstream. What was the ignition that set off this effort?

DOBBIN: One of the main reasons is that ...over the last 30 years, the relative income of white non college-educated Americans has declined compared to other groups. ...It's been very easy for people on the right to demonize immigrants and people of color saying, in the case of people of color, they're stealing your jobs and eating your cats and dogs — in the case of immigrants.... Also, the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter Movement after the murder of George Floyd in 2020. The response to that was a very organized social movement — the reactivation of the Proud Boys, a lot of right-wing extremist groups, white nationalist groups gain membership. And also, we saw some support from Trump and his allies for those groups....

WASHINGTON: I think it's important for us to think about all the ways DEI has an impact on our work and lived experience... things like language translation services, parental leave for fathers, pay equity, time off for religious holidays, remote work or flexible schedules, lactation rooms for nursing mothers — the list of impact is very long....

Air Pollution

March 7, 2025, National Public Radio *report by Emily Feng*

In what it said was a cost-cutting measure, the US State Department announced it will stop publishing global air pollution data....

Starting in 2009, the US State Department started a network of high-quality sensors measuring air pollutants and posted the information on social media daily. At first, China was furious, but ended up amending its own environmental air standards in response to public anger.

...In the last decade, the US expanded its air monitoring program from Beijing to more than 35 countries. And found an average 10% drop in air pollutants in cities with State Department air monitors....

US diplomats are paid $1,500 a year in what's called a hardship differential for living in conditions that are worse than those in the United States. Because those conditions improved, the hardship pay declined in these cities ...and the program paid for itself. Ω

A Pebble in the Haitian Pond

by Katie Huynh

In 2019, members of the House of Grace Catholic Worker (Philadelphia, PA) visited Port-au-Prince, Haiti much like we had for the past 15 years. We carefully collected and weighed bags of medical supplies, organized educational sessions for the staff, practiced our Haitian Creole, and prayed for our hearts to hold the suffering, beauty, and intense heat that awaited us. Kay Lasante, meaning "house of health" was started by the House of Grace and Bishop Thomas Gumbleton after a fact-finding trip in 2004 when soon-to-be political prisoner Father Gerard Jean Juste asked us to provide healthcare for his parishioners. After 20 years of providing free health care with dignity to the community of Port-au-Prince, Kay Lasante closed at the end of 2024.

Late in 2019, the political situation in Haiti started to unravel with an increase of gang violence which worsened an already limited access to life-sustaining resources such as food, clean water, and transportation. For Haitians, leaving home became a day-to-day decision of weighing the risks and benefits. At the time, we did not realize 2019 would be our last trip to Kay Lasante. In 2020, COVID-19 kept us at home, and had even more devastating consequences for the people of Haiti who were already living on a fragile line of life and death. In November 2023, our medical director of 12 years, Dr. Belfort, had to flee the country due to threats to his life and to his family. Dr. Belfort will not be able to safely return to his home country of Haiti or Kay Lasante. He exuded the spirit of Kay Lasante. He spent countless hours providing primary care selflessly, educating patients, and mentoring the staff, all members of Father Jean Juste's parish.

Training lay people in simple healthcare was always the heart of Kay Lasante. During our very first trip in 2004, Kay Lasante was birthed with three copies of "Where there is No Doctor" in Haitian Creole. During the early years, Kay Lasante had no walls, only healthcare workers trained in simple wound care, assessment and nutrition who went into the community to share their knowledge.

Jean Junior Daguerre, Clinic Administrator; Sentile Menard, Nurse; Francius Ocniel, Security; Ludna Emmanuel, Housekeeper; Edeline Jean Michel, Pharmacist; Julienne Picot, Nurse; Marie Chelirose Sanon, Nurse; Fabienne Jean, Nurse; Witgline Fleurine, Intern; Dady Mondestin, Nurse, Adam Carlo, Administrative Assistant

Several of these women were formally trained as nurses over the years (funded by Kay Lasante) and became the backbone of the formal clinic when it opened its brick-and-mortar location in 2012. Other staff included an administrator, pharmacist, security guard, and housekeeping, a staff of 12 in all. Kay Lasante was 100% Haitian-operated and provided a living wage in a country where jobs are hard to come by

Kay Lasante provided primary care to adults and children, vaccinations, nutrition program, and an innovative cervical cancer screening program known as VIA. The fact that this happened in Port-au-Prince, cannot be overstated as anything less than a miracle. As the House of Grace, we never planned on scaling the clinic to this level, and as the years went on it was more and more difficult to support such a large project from the United States given the extreme circumstances and no on-site support from the board.

Through a long discernment process in 2024, in collaboration with the medical director and administrator, we decided to close Kay Lasante. The increase in security concerns, lack of funding, and inability to secure an in-country long-term partner, all led us to this choice. Despite an overwhelming sense of loss, and guilt we remember the principles that we are called to:

> "People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do."
>
> —Dorothy Day

We have laid our brick, cast a pebble, and know that those will continue to have ripples throughout Haiti.

We find comfort in knowing that because of the generosity of all of our supporters, we were able to provide more funds than expected to each of our staff members when the clinic closed. They all have professional education and skills to carry them into the future. Also, we are still in touch with the former administrator who facilitates some funds for medications and food to former Kay Lasante patients.

As we face injustices of unheard-of proportions both here in the US and abroad, let us remember to continue to be more concerned with being faithful, than being effective. Ω

Editor's Note: We have nothing but love and respect for our dear friends at House of Grace, who run a free medical clinic in Philadelphia. They can be reached at: House of Grace Catholic Worker, 1826 East Lehigh Avenue, Kensington,